

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-72. (cancelled)

73. (previously presented) A method for detecting the presence of an HIV target sequence comprising:

- a. providing:
 - i. a sample suspected of containing an HIV target sequence; and
 - ii. an oligonucleotide, wherein at least a portion of said oligonucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:167;
- b. exposing said sample to said oligonucleotide; and
- c. detecting the presence or absence of said HIV target sequence in said sample.

74. (previously presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein said exposing step comprises conducting an invasive cleavage assay.

75. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

- a. providing:
 - iii. a sample suspected of or known to contain an HIV target sequence; and
 - iv. an oligonucleotide, wherein at least a portion of said oligonucleotide hybridizes to a region of said HIV target sequence comprising nucleotides ~~1853-1855~~ 1394 to 1396 of SEQ ID NO:158; and
- b. exposing said sample to one or more of said oligonucleotides.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, further comprising the step of c) detecting the presence or absence of hybridization of said oligonucleotide to said HIV target sequence.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 76, wherein the presence of said hybridization of said oligonucleotide to said HIV target is indicative of the presence of HIV virus in said sample.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said exposing comprises conducting an invasive cleavage assay.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said oligonucleotide is an oligonucleotide for performing an invasive cleavage assay.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said oligonucleotide is an antisense oligonucleotide.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide is single stranded.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said exposing results in inhibition of expression of one or more genes from said HIV target sequence.

83-88 (cancelled)